

Town of Sherman
Commission on Aging at the Sherman Senior Center
Monday, June 21, 2021 at 4:00pm

Members Present: Janet Wey, Sheila McMahon, Ed Hayes, Art VonPlachecki, Jeanne McRoberts, Rick Hudson, Carol Sperling

Members Absent: Juan Garcia, Lynda Arnold, Suzette Berger, Don Lowe

Also Present: Lynne Gomez - Social Services Director

Clerk: Ruth Chen Byrnes

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Chairman J. Wey.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of May 17, 2021 by R. Hudson. Seconded by J. McRoberts Vote For: All in favor

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT: L. Gomez passed a “Sherman Social Services” brochure with helpful information (services available, mission, useful websites, contact information) and then shared with the commissioners some of the programs she is currently involved in. She wants the commissioners to understand that Social Services’ mission is very different than the Senior Center’s, but there are overlaps.

She is approved in administering Narcan (naloxone) for opioid overdoses. She also sits on the New Milford Coalition for Drug Prevention, and works with the police for home visits. She is administering the pre-school tuition waiver and the summer camp waivers for income challenged families. She administers the Back to School program (shoes, backpack, school supplies for the school year) for families who meet the income threshold via proof of income and tax returns. She is a -mandatory reporter for child and elder abuse. She is the administrator for the Energy Assistance program. She is a licensed social worker for CT and NY, along with mental health trauma training and dialectical behavior therapy. She explained that she wanted them to have this information when discussion begins whether the two departments need to both be in the new Senior Center building.

A vonPlachecki stated that it makes sense to keep the two departments together with the need for a separate entrance for social services clients. L. Gomez reiterated that while the two departments overlap, she is fine with either scenario.

OLD BUSINESS:

Art Show Update: Chairman Wey updated her list with each commissioner tasked with contacting seniors for submitting artwork. The Sherman Library would like the artwork to be hung up on July 8th at 1pm. The artwork should be dropped off prior to that time. Linda

Hubbard (Sherman Library) requests if the artist is able, to email her a photo of the art along with the size, price, and medium to the library by June 23. A vonPlachecki offered to collect signed waivers from the artists. R. Hudson and E. Hayes will help hang the artwork. The art show ad was published in the Town Tribune, and will be sent to the Sherman Sentinel. The next Sherman newsletter will also include art show information.

Feasibility Committee Update: A vonPlachecki thanked J. McRoberts and L. Arnold for writing up an announcement from the CoA on its commitment to move forward with building a new senior center. J. Wey will read the announcement at the Board of Selectmen's meeting this coming Thursday evening. J. Wey noted that there was a nice article in the Spectrum about the proposed new senior center.

J. Wey read an email from Don Lowe. There will be a free consultation on Wednesday, June 21, at 11am with Tim Beatty and an engineer. Anyone from the CoA is welcomed to attend. R. Hudson, E. Hayes, J. McRoberts, and J. Wey plan to attend. R. Hudson shared that the new proposed site to be built is in the area between the upper and lower parking lot of Town Hall. Drillings will be done to determine how much rock there is. This site is an option in addition to Volunteer Field. There was concern that parking and congestion would be an issue at the Town Hall parking lot site.

E. Hayes stated that everything will be looked at with the assistance from the engineer.

What to do with unspent CoA funds: The funds needs to be spent before July 1. Not likely that we will know the cost of an engineering survey in time to use this fiscal year's funds. J.Wey shared that in 2018 when the Feasibility Committee was established, the reasons for needing a new senior center were and still are: the current location's lack of parking (6 spaces and 2 are handicapped) , danger of parking at the library and crossing Route 37 Center, no dishwasher, mice, lack of storage, S. Berger's office provides no privacy for meetings with seniors, overcrowded, inadequate kitchen, lack of potable water).

A vonPlachecki moved to allocate an amount not to exceed \$500 to have the entrance door lock at the Senior Center be replaced or fixed. Seconded by J. McRoberts. All voted in favor.

R. Hudson will put the order in for 2 sets of flashing lights for the crossing sign. He's also been moving the flashing speed sign to different parts of town.

NEW BUSINESS:

Place to hold future CoA meetings: All commissioners present voted to continue with meetings at the Senior Center.

Adjournment:

R. Hudson moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:17pm.

S. McMahan seconded the motion.

Vote for: Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Chen Byrnes

Next meeting: Monday, July 19, 2021, 4:00PM at the Sherman Senior Center